

Message Text

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47

ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-08 OPR-02 PM-03 DODE-00 INR-05

CIAE-00 L-01 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 SP-02 /047 W

----- 050233

O R 061552Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8505

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 03766

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GW, CB

SUBJECT: WITHDRAWAL OF FRG PERSONNEL FROM PHNOM PENH

1. FONOFF SEA DIRECTOR, BERENDONCK, INFORMED US MARCH 6 AT HIS INITIATIVE THAT HE WAS ABOUT TO SEND INSTRUCTIONS TO THE REMAINING TWO OFFICIAL FRG REPRESENTATIVES IN PHNOM PENH, VOLLERS AND HEILAND, THAT THEY SHOULD LEAVE THE CAMBODIAN CAPITAL AT LEAST TEMPORARILY AND GO TO BANGKOK. BERENDONCK SAID HE WANTED TO GIVE US THIS INFORMATION (FRG EMBASSY WASHINGTON WILL ALSO BE INSTRUCT-ED TO TALK WITH DEPARTMENT) NOT ONLY BECAUSE OF STRONG UNITED STATES INTEREST IN CAMBODIA BUT ALSO BECAUSE U.S. EMBASSY PHNOM PENH HAD BEEN SO KIND AS TO OFFER TO INCLUDE FRG PERSONNEL IN ITS EMERGENCY AND EVACUATION PLANNING.

2. BERENDONCK SAID THAT THE FOREIGN OFFICE IN THE PRESENT SITUATION HAD HAD TO WEIGH THE VALUE OF KEEPING ITS MEN IN PHNOM PENH AGAINST THE OBVIOUS RISKS INVOLVED AND HAD CONCLUDED THAT THE LATTER OUTWEIGHED THE FORMER. HE STRESSED THAT THE FRG WAS NOT CLOSING UP SHOP COMPLETE-
LY: THE RESIDENCE AND THE CHANCELLERY, ALONG WITH LOCAL
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CAMBODIAN PERSONNEL, WOULD BE RETAINED. VOLLERS WOULD BE

INSTRUCTED TO OBSERVE THE SITUATION FROM BANGKOK AND TO RETURN TO PHNOM PENH IF AND WHEN HE THOUGHT THE SECURITY SITUATION HAD SUFFICIENTLY IMPROVED. FINALLY, BERENDONCK INDICATED THAT VOLLERS INSTRUCTIONS WOULD LEAVE OPEN THE POSSIBILITY FOR HIM TO STAY IN PHNOM PENH, OR AT LEAST ARGUE IN THAT DIRECTION, IF HE HAD SERIOUS OBJECTIONS TO THE ORDER TO REMOVE TO BANGKOK.
HILLENBRAND

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To: STATE PHNOM PENH
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